

THE GREAT STRIKE.

A PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

The Federal Troops Proceed to the Seat of War, Which is at Martinsburg, West Virginia, Where the Great Excitement Prevails.—Correspondence Between Secretary McCrory and Governor Matthews—Affairs Along the Line.

Shortly after noon yesterday Governor Matthews, of West Virginia, sent the following dispatch to President Hayes:

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA, July 18. (By telegraph.)
Owing to unlawful combinations and domestic violence along the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, it is impossible with any force at my command to execute the laws of the State. I therefore call upon your Excellency for the assistance of the United States military to protect the law-abiding people of this State from domestic violence, and to maintain the supremacy of the law. The Legislature is not now in session, and no law can be enacted in time to take any action in the emergency. A force of from two to three hundred should be sent without delay to Wheeling, West Virginia, to meet and confer with the officers in command.

HENRY M. MATTHEWS,
Governor of West Virginia.

After consultation with the President, it has been decided that the dispatch was not explicit enough to warrant sending troops to West Virginia, Secretary McCrory sent the following:

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 18. (By telegraph.)
Your dispatch to the President asking for troops is received. The President is available, and no union is in the State which the State is unable to suppress the insurrection. Please furnish full statement of facts, and the State will take such action as may be deemed necessary.

How strong are the insurgents?

GEORGE W. MCCRORY,
Secretary of War.

WHEELING, W. VA., July 18, 1877.
The only organized force in the State consists of four companies. Two of them are at Martinsburg and in sympathy with rioters, who are believed to be eight hundred strong. The other two companies consist of eight men each, and are organized in the State. Will you please dispatch troops to the seat of the insurrection? I have been reluctant to call on the President, but deemed it necessary to prevent bloodshed.

HENRY M. MATTHEWS.

Upon the receipt of the last dispatch orders were immediately issued to have troops sent to Martinsburg.

In response to a dispatch from Secretary McCrory, Vice President King, of the Baltimore and Ohio road, sent the following:

COLUMBIA, Md., July 18. (By telegraph.)
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of this date, stating it is probable that the Baltimore and Ohio road will be closed by the strikers. I have directed my agent at Martinsburg to take such action as may be deemed necessary to prevent bloodshed.

At 3:30 o'clock Gen. French, commanding officer at the Arsenal, received orders to proceed to Martinsburg with six batteries of artillery. Orders were also sent to Fort McHenry to have two of the batteries posted there on.

The troops from Fort McHenry arrived on a special train in this city about 9 o'clock last night. In the meantime the six batteries at the Arsenal were made ready and started for the Baltimore and Ohio depot, where they met the train from Baltimore. Each of the soldiers was equipped with his musket, knapsack, blanket, and haversack, containing two days' rations.

The scene at the depot before the train left looked like old war times, only there were no serious fears. The soldiers seemed to regard the trip as a lark, and the crowd of people from Washington and the two from Fort McHenry all belonged to the 2d artillery.

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